

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SPM-01 SWF-02 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11

RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14

SP-03 NSC-07 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07

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TAGS: ECA, SPOP

SUBJ: ECA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR WORLD POPULATION
CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF 18 PAGE DRAFT CONFERENCE REPORT
OF WHICH ADVANCE COPY OBTAINED THROUGH SECRETARIAT SOURCES:
PART I, WHICH SUMMARIZES MEETING, IS LESS SATISFACTORY THAN
PART II ON WPPA.

2. PART I REFERS TO CONSENSUS THAT POPULATION MUST BE APPROACHED
AS INTEGRAL PART OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROBLEM LARGELY
DEFINED AS SEARCH FOR EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN RESOURCES AND NEED
FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. REPORT FAILS
TO STATE RAPID POP GROWTH IMPEDES DEVELOPMENT AND, INDEED
COMMENTS "SOLUTION NOT TO BE FOUND EXCLUSIVELY, IF AT ALL,
IN CONTROL OF FERTILITY WHICH IS IN SPHERE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE AND GOVERNED BY BASIC HUMAN RIGHT TO DECIDE, ETC."
REFERENCE ALSO MADE TO SUGGESTION (REPORTEDLY BY ETHIOPIAN REP)
THAT POP BE VIEWED AS INSTRUMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT.

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3. REPORT ALSO URGES GREATER AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (WITH EXTENSIVE LAND REFORM), RECOGNIZES THAT MORTALITY REDUCTION IMPORTANT, AND THAT FERTILITY IS MODERATE IN SOME COUNTRIES BUT OTHERS FACE HIGH AND INCREASING BIRTH RATES. AGREEMENT THAT REGARDLESS OF SOLUTIONS ADOPTED NOW, INHERENT INERTIA WILL DETERMINE POP GROWTH FOR DECADES.

4. URBAN DRIFT ALREADY GROWING PROBLEM AND AFRICA EXPECTED TO BE 39 PERCENT URBANIZED BY YEAR 2000. MIGRANTS NEED BETTER PROTECTION AND ARE SOMETIMES EXPLOITED. TO ONE REP THIS "CAMOUFLAGED SLAVERY" (SAID BE MOROCCAN CRACK AT FRENCH). ALTHOUGH STOCKHOLM SYMPOSIUM TOO PESSIMISTIC, WPC SHOULD CONSIDER QUESTION OF RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION.

5. PART II DEALING WITH DRAFT PLAN IMPLICITLY ENDORSES IT AND CONGRATULATES SECRETARIAT AND PLAN'S FLEXIBILITY. POINTS OUT TO DONOR COUNTRIES THAT ITS IMPLEMENTATION WILL REQUIRE MORE AID. LIKES EMPHASIS ON NEED DATA, RESEARCH AND TRAINING BUT ADDS (THANKS TO LESOTHO) LACK OF THESE SHOULD NOT DELAY POLICY FORMATION.

6. TWENTY-EIGHT AMENDMENTS PROPOSED PLAN, MOST OF WHICH ARE NIT-PICKS. RE PARA 15, CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AT INABILITY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND MEANS TO ALL "NOT LATER THAN 1985" AND FINALLY RECOMMEND PHRASE BE REPLACED BY "ASAP". REFERENCES TO TARGETS UNTOUCHED. IN PARA 74 UN BODIES WOULD BE "EXPECTED" RATHER THAN "REQUESTED" TO RESPOND.

7. WE UNDERSTAND MEETING ENDORSED IDEA PRE-CONFERENCE CONFAB OF AFRICANS IN BUCHAREST AUG 15 AND OF POST-CONFERENCE REGIONAL CONSULTATION EARLY IN 1975 TO ASSESS RESULTS AND ELABORATE REGIONAL VARIANTS. OFFER OF DACCA AS SITE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED.

8. DRAFTING COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF VOLUBLE INSISTENT REPS FROM ETHIOPIA AND GABON AND PLIANT EGYPT PLUS LIBERIA AND NIGERIA (WHO FELT CONSTRAINED BY THEIR OFFICERSHIPS). THIS RESULTED IN SOME IMBALANCE DRAFT ACCORDING OUR SOURCES. FINAL SESSION HELD EVENING MAY 16. ANY IMPORTANT CHANGES PLUS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS WILL BE SEPARATELY REPORTED. WYMAN

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